

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM PA/PRESS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING PRESS SUMMARY, APRIL 19, 1978

NO. 12

1. WIRES

AP -- SCHWEID: NOTHING.

UPI -- ANDERSON FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVED MOSCOW WEDNESDAY TO TRY
BREAK DEADLOCK IN STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, BUT SAID,
"COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS REMAIN" -- INCLUDING ENTIRE
NEW FAMILY OF SOVIET MISSILES.

OTHER POINTS:

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-- VANCE EXPECTED BEGIN SALT WITH GROMYKO, THEN BREZHNEV.
ISSUE OF SOVIET, CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA TO BE RAISED, TOO.

-- UPON ARRIVAL, VANCE SAID PROGRESS MADE ON A NEW SALT
AGREEMENT; BOTH COUNTRIES HAD RESPONSIBILITY WORK TOWARD
WORLD PEACE.

-- REPORTERS TOLD VANCE DOESN'T EXPECT TALKS TO BE CONCLUSIVE; ADDITIONAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING NECESSARY FOR SIGNING. TALKS NEEDED TO BREAK A DEADLOCK ON SEVERAL FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES, INCLUDING NEW INTER-CONTINENTAL MISSILES AND BACKFIRE BOMBER.

--AMERICANS AGREE WITH SOVIETS THAT BACKFIRE ONLY MEDIUM-RANGE, BUT COULD REACH U.S.

--SOVIETS MIGHT RAISE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE; THEY HAVE SAID IT COULD NOT BE USED FOR BLACKMAIL IN SALT TALKS.

--ALSO EXPECTED COMPLICATE VANCE'S MISSION: SHEVCHENKO'S REFUSAL RETURN USSR. SOVIETS UNEASY ABOUT HIS DISARMAMENT EXPERTISE AND POSSIBLE SHARING WITH U.S.

--VANCE TOLD CENTO GATHERING THAT U.S. "DEEPLY CONCERNED" OVER SOVIET, CUBAN BUILDUP IN AFRICA. VANCE ADDED THAT U.S. WOULD NOT TIE A SALT AGREEMENT TO AN AFRICAN PROBLEM.

ANDERSON FROM LONDON

LEAD: BOLSTERED BY ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST MAJOR POLICY VICTORY -- PANAMA CANAL TREATIES -- SECRETARY VANCE HEADED FOR MOSCOW TODAY FOR CRUCIAL TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS.

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OTHER POINTS:

--U.S. OFFICIALS BELIEVE DEFEAT ON CANAL TREATIES WOULD HAVE UNDERMINED VANCE'S CREDIBILITY IN NEGOTIATING SALT, EVEN MORE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE.

--ERGO, PANAMA VICTORY GIVES VANCE SOMEWHAT MORE AUTHORITY IN SOVIET DEALINGS, U.S. OFFICIALS BELIEVED.

REUTERS -- GUTMAN FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE ANNOUNCED TODAY HE WILL RETURN TO LONDON ON SUNDAY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN.

OTHER POINTS:

--SENIOR OFFICIAL ON VANCE'S PLANE EN ROUTE MOSCOW SAID OTHER WESTERN FORMINS IN FIVE-NATION CONTACT GROUP ON NAMIBIA WILL PROBABLY MEET NEXT MONDAY. GENSCHEK EXPECTED; DE GUIRINGAUD MAYBE; JAMIESON INVITED.

--CONTACT GROUP CONVENED TO DISCUSS CLARIFICATIONS REQUESTED BY BOTHA ON LATEST WESTERN PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA. BOTHA TOLD VANCE, OWEN IN PRETORIA THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND PROVISION REQUIRING WITHDRAWAL 1500 SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ONE WEEK AFTER A FREE ELECTION. DID NOT SEE NEED UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT IN PLACE.

--BOTHA SAID IF SWAPO CAME TO POWER AND DEMANDED IMMEDIATE SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL, THEN TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO GO.

--VANCE, OWEN AGREED TAKE UP QUESTION WITH CONTACT GROUP FOR REPLY ASAP.

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REUTERS - GUTMAN AND ROBERT EVENS FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE ARRIVED IN MOSCOW TONIGHT HOPING TO MOVE AHEAD WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY AS THE SOVIET UNION ISSUED A FRESH CALL FOR ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN ACCORD.

OTHER POINTS:

--VANCE AT CENTO CRITICIZED SOVIET, CUBAN ROLES IN AFRICA.

--BOTH SOVIET, U.S. OFFICIALS INDICATE NO DRAMATIC MOVEMENT EXPECTED IN SALT, ALTHOUGH U.S. UNDERSTOOD TO HOPE SOME OUTSTANDING ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED.

--IN CONTRAST TO PERIOD JUST PRIOR VANCE'S VISIT LAST YEAR, LITTLE ADVANCE DISCUSSION IN PRESS.

--VANCE WARMLY WELCOMED AT AIRPORT BY GROMYKO. VANCE SAID COMPLEX PROBLEMS REMAIN, BUT HOPES FOR PROGRESS ON MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES. ADDED: "BOTH THE U.S. AND THE USSR HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK FOR WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY, TO BROADEN THE COOPERATIVE ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AND TO FIND WAYS TO REGULATE ITS MORE COMPETITIVE ASPECTS."

--VANCE SAID HE SEES THESE MEETINGS AS AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN ONGOING QUEST FOR PEACE.

--BREZHNEV AND SOVIET POLITICAL COMMENTATORS SIGNALING THAT KREMLIN FEELS IT HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED ALL POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATIONS; NOW U.S. MUST MAKE NEEDED ADJUSTMENTS
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TO REACH AGREEMENT.

--NEW TIMES PUBLISHED TODAY: CONCLUSION OF NEW SALT TREATY ESSENTIAL BEFORE DISARMAMENT CAN BEGIN; REPEATED RECENT REGULAR THEME IN MOSCOW PRESS - RECENT USSR ARMS BUILDUP PURELY DEFENSIVE.

--MAIN ISSUES HOLDING UP SALT PACT: EXTENT OF DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. CRUISE MISSILE AND USE OF SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER.

--U.S. EAGER FOR BAN ON DEVELOPMENT, TESTING OF INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES.

--SOVIET PRESS BANDYING BREZHNEV COMPLAINTS THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION SHOWING "INDECISION AND INCONSISTENCY" IN SALT APPROACH; EXPRESSED HOPE VANCE WOULD NOT DISPLAY THESE CHARACTERISTICS.

--UNDERSTOOD VANCE WILL RAISE QUESTION OF SOVIET, CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN HORN OF AFRICA AND POTENTIALLY IN RHODESIA.

GUTMAN FROM LONDON:

LEAD: VANCE FLIES TO MOSCOW EXPECTING RESOLVE SOME, BUT NOT ALL, ISSUES BLOCKING NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY BETWEEN TWO SUPERPOWERS.

OTHER POINTS:

-- SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS INDICATE SCALED-DOWN EXPECTATIONS FOR MOSCOW MEETING.

--VANCE TOLD CENTO U.S. WOULD BE DEEPLY DISTURBED IF CUBAN FORCES BECAME INVOLVED IN ERITREAN SECESSION STRUGGLE.

--TO U.S., BACKFIRE BOMBER MORE A POLITICAL ISSUE THAN A
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GENUINE STRATEGIC CONCERN--COULD REACH U.S. ON ONE-WAY MISSION. ADMINISTRATION WANTS ASSURANCES --ON PRODUCTION RATE AND REFUELING CAPACITY--ON BACKFIRE BOMBER TO GET SALT THROUGH CONGRESS.

TELEVISION NEWS

NBC

ANCHOR JESSICA SAVITCH NOTED VANCE'S MOSCOW ARRIVAL AND HIS COMMENT THAT "COMPLEX PROBLEMS REMAIN" IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS.

(NO VALERIANI REPORT.)

ABC

ANCHOR REASONER: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE ARRIVED IN MOSCOW TODAY FOR THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS. HE WAS WARMLY GREETED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO. VANCE IS HOPING TO GET THE STALLED ARMS LIMITATION TALKS GOING AGAIN.

HOWEVER, ABC'S BARRY DUNSMORE REPORTS NO NEW ARMS AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED ON THIS TRIP.

(NO CLIP FROM DUNSMORE.)

CBS

ANCHOR CRONKITE: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE ARRIVED IN MOSCOW TODAY WITH SCALED DOWN AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS TREATY.
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BERNARD KALB: VANCE BEGAN HIS DAY IN LONDON WITH A BLAST AT THE RUSSIANS. SPEAKING BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL TREATY ORGANIZATION, HE SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CUBAN COMBAT FORCES AND SOVIET PERSONNEL IN THE HORN OF AFRICA DOES NOT PROMOTE STABILITY. THEY SHOULD LEAVE. THAT MESSAGE TO THE KREMLIN CAME A DAY AFTER VANCE COMPLETED HIS INCONCLUSIVE PEACE MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. A FEW HOURS LATER VANCE ARRIVED IN MOSCOW. IT WAS HIS SECOND VISIT TO THE SOVIET CAPITAL, THE FIRST JUST A YEAR AGO ENDED IN A FRIGID STAND-OFF. THE RUSSIANS SAID NO TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S NEW PROPOSALS FOR CONTROLLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THEY TOLD THE U.S. IN EFFECT TO MIND ITS OWN BUSINESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. VANCE WENT HOME EMPTY-HANDED.

THIS TIME HE COMES TO MOSCOW WITH MUCH MORE MODEST HOPES, BUT AT A MOMENT WHEN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE AT A LOW POINT. THE RUSSIANS HAVE ACCUSED WASHINGTON OF DELAYING A NEW SALT AGREEMENT FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

THE WELCOME WAS ROUTINE. VANCE GREETED BY FOREIGN MINISTER

GROMYKO AND OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS. THE SECRETARY, DURING HIS TALKS HERE, WILL ECHO HIS LONDON BLAST, BUT THE CENTRAL ISSUE ON THE AGENDA IS TRYING TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE REMAINING OBSTACLES BLOCKING A NEW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT. VANCE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE THE RUSSIANS COME THROUGH WITH SOME SORT OF RECIPROCAL RESTRAINING ACTION IN RETURN FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION HOLDING OFF PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB, BUT THERE'S NOT THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION OF THAT HAPPENING.

VANCE: COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS REMAIN IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. I HOPE MY VISIT HERE WILL MAKE PROGRESS ON THE REMAINING MAJOR ISSUES. I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY
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TO WORK FOR WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY, TO BROADEN THE COOPERATIVE ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, AND TO FIND WAYS TO REGULATE ITS MORE COMPETITIVE ASPECTS.

KALB: THIS IS NOT A VISIT OF GREAT EXPECTATION SO FAR AS SALT IS CONCERNED--SOME PROGRESS PERHAPS, BUT NO BREAK-THROUGH. EVEN SO, U.S-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE NOW SO STRAINED, THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT IF THE TWO SIDES CAN SIMPLY SUCCEED IN CHANGING THE TONE OF THEIR RELATIONS, THAT IS A LOWERING OF VOICES, LESS SNIPING, THAT EVEN THAT WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. CHRISTOPHER

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